

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Milton Charles Van Noland

Serial No.:


Filed on: July 30, 2003

Title: Filter Apparatus and Method with Centrifugal Separator for Removing Contaminants from a Fluid

STATEMENT RE: INVENTOR

I hereby state that I am the attorney for Investors Precision Manufacturing, Inc., a California corporation. Based on assignment documents in my possession, a copies of which are attached, Investors Precision Manufacturing is the assignee of all rights to the above-identified patent application. The name, residence and citizenship believed to be the inventor of the above-entitled invention is set forth below:

Name: Milton Charles Van Noland  
Address: 13788 Lake Wildwood Dr.  
Penn Valley, CA 95946  
Citizenship: U.S.

  
SIGNATURE OF PRACTITIONER

Reg. No. 39,014

Richard A. Ryan

Tel. No.: (559) 447-1862

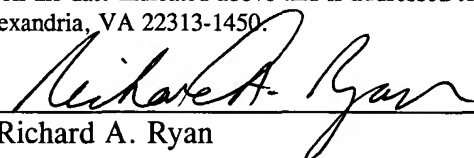
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I hereby certify that the papers and/or fees identified in this letter are being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to Mail Stop PATENT APPLICATION, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

  
Richard A. Ryan

Jul 30 03 10:46a Lane Weiss  
JUL 30 2003 10:02AM HP LASERJET 3200

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Practitioner's Docket N . RAR467.01

**PATENT**

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### **STATEMENT CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS (37 CFR 1.9(f) and 1.27(b))--SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN**

I hereby state that I am an official of the small business concern, which is the assignee of all rights to the above-identified patent application, empowered to act on behalf of the concern identified below:

Investors Precision Manufacturing, Inc.  
P.O. Box 4135  
Sonora, California 95370

I hereby state that the above identified small business concern qualifies as a small business concern, as defined in 13 CFR 121.12, and reproduced in 37 CFR 1.9(d), for purposes of paying reduced fees to the United States Patent and Trademark Office under Sections 41(a) and (b) of Title 35, United States Code, in that the number of employees of the concern, including those of its affiliates, does not exceed 500 persons. For purposes of this statement, (1) the number of employees of the business concern is the average over the previous fiscal year of the concern of the persons employed on a full-time, part-time or temporary basis during each of the pay periods of the fiscal year, and (2) concerns are affiliates of each other when either, directly or indirectly, one concern controls or has the power to control the other, or a third-party or parties controls or has the power to control both.

I hereby state that rights under contract or law have been conveyed to, and remain with, the small business concern identified above, with regard to the invention described in the specification filed herewith, with title as listed above.

If the rights held by the above identified small business concern are not exclusive, each individual, concern or organization having rights in the invention is listed below and no rights to the invention are held by any person, other than the inventor, who would not qualify as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9(c), if that person made the invention, or by any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).

Each such person, concern or organization having any rights in the invention is listed below:

**No such person, concern, or organization exists.**

JUL 30 03 10:46a Lane Weiss  
JUL 30 2003 10:02AM HP LASERJET 3200

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I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small business entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.28(b))

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further, that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

Scott Traum  
President  
Investors Precision Manufacturing, Inc.  
P.O. Box 4135  
Sonora, California 95370

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATUREDate 7/30/03

Inventor: Milton Charles Van Noland  
Docket No.: RAR467.01

(Small Entity-Small Business--page 2 of 2)